

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 656

By White

A RESOLUTION to recognize Patrick J. Lawton on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Patrick J. Lawton is one such estimable person, who served for more than thirty-two years as city administrator of the City of Germantown, from which position he retired on December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished thirty-three-year career with the City of Germantown, Mr. Lawton provided solid leadership and thoughtful guidance for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the son of James and Patricia Lawton, Patrick Lawton was born in Ridgewood, New Jersey; he earned a master's degree in public administration from Indiana State University in 1981; and

WHEREAS, after working with the City of Salinas, California, and the City of Champaign, Illinois, on April 11, 1988, Mr. Lawton was unanimously approved by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to the position of assistant to the city administrator of the City of Germantown; and

WHEREAS, a little more than a year later, on August 14, 1989, he received unanimous support from the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to become city administrator under Mayor Charles Salvaggio; and

WHEREAS, as city administrator, Patrick Lawton oversaw the day-to-day operations of Germantown, carrying out the directives handed down by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. During his exemplary tenure, construction of the Germantown Performing Arts Center was

completed, and a new library was built; shortly thereafter, the city assumed operation of Germantown Community Library from Shelby County, and in 1993, Germantown achieved and has since maintained the dual AAA bond rating from Moody's and Standard and Poor's; and

WHEREAS, his tireless efforts on behalf of Germantown played a significant role in numerous civic developments, including the city's partnership with Audubon International to allow construction of the Wolf River Boulevard Connector and the formation and deployment by the Germantown Fire Department of the city-run ambulance service that now boasts one of the highest cardiac survival rates in the country; and

WHEREAS, city administration also fostered the establishment of Germantown Municipal School District, and more than 300 residents invested more than 2,000 hours in creating the uniquely citizen-driven Germantown Forward 2030 strategic plan, which now drives departmental business plans as well as individual employee development plans; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Lawton steered the city through three recessions and three natural disasters, and his open-door policy and emphasis on building personal relationships helped the city's workforce thrive and grow. He worked alongside public works crews patching potholes and pouring sidewalks, enjoyed breakfast with firefighters, rode along with police officers during their shifts, worked alongside city employees to help ensure the community had easy access to COVID-19 vaccines, and, when the sanitation contractor practically walked off the job in 2016, drove a pickup truck around collecting trash; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated professional, Mr. Lawton is a member of the International City/County Management Association, Tennessee City Management Association, Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence Board of Directors, Germantown Performing Arts Center Board of Directors, Leadership Germantown Board of Directors, and Germantown Rotary; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, under Patrick Lawton's leadership, guidance, and perseverance, Germantown became the fourth city in the entire country to have achieved the presidential-level

Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, and the city was also named the 2017 Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence winner; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Lawton was recognized as the 1996 Tennessee Municipal League City Manager of the Year and the 1997 American Society for Public Administration Mid-South Chapter Administrator of the Year; and

WHEREAS, exemplifying the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, Patrick Lawton married the love of his life, Cathy Hughes, in 1979, and they are the proud parents of three children, Erin (Joe) Seboldt, Brendan (Kayla) Lawton, and Kipp (Samira) Lawton, and the loving grandparents of Lily and Oliver Seboldt, Rivers Lawton, Soori Lawton, and Sarina Lawton; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious tenure, Mr. Lawton carried out his responsibilities with diligence and integrity; his remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, a strong advocate for the citizens of Germantown, Patrick Lawton compiled a singular record of success during his exemplary public service career, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Patrick J. Lawton for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as city administrator of the City of Germantown and extend to him our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.